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Automatic Charting

May 7, 2002 By Helen Bradley

I have an Excel worksheet with data in cells A1:B10 plotted on a chart. Each day I add another row of data. How can I make the chart range grow automatically, so that tomorrow it is charting A1:B11, the following day A1:B12, and so on?

Brad Greene

Let's assume you're working in Sheet1 with column headings in row 1 and days in column A. Data relating to each date is in column B. Using Insert | Name | Define, type each name in the Names in workbook area, and then type the corresponding formula in the Refers to area. Click Add and type in:

Days=OFFSET(Sheet1!\$A\$2,0,0,
COUNTA(Sheet1!\$A:\$A)-1)
PlotData=OFFSET(Sheet1!\$B\$2,0,0,
COUNTA(Sheet1!\$B:\$B)-1)

Click on the series in your chart so the =SERIES formula appears in the formula bar. Edit the second and third arguments in the formula, replacing the reference to the column A range with the range name Days and the reference to the column B range with the range name PlotData. The result should be something like this:

=SERIES(Sheet1!\$B\$1,Book1! Days,Book1!PlotData,1)

Now the chart will automatically grow as you add data. (This solution is based on John Walkenbach's, from his book *Microsoft Excel 2000 Formulas*.)

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